

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

June 2005

Memories

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

In the last year, we have lost four of our veteran canines. Memorial Day seems to be an appropriate time to remember them and our other now-retired certified and deployable canines.

In 2004 we lost K9 Louie, still in his prime, and retired K9 Kelly. You can read about them in the Remembering Louie Special Edition newsletter and the August 2004 newsletter. Amy Rising and K9 Louie attended CSS school and certified Type 2 in 1997 and Type 1 in 1999. They were deployed to the Oklahoma City tornadoes in 1999, the World Trade Center in 2001, the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002, and the Columbia Shuttle Recovery in 2003. Vickie Senters and K9 Kelly attended CSS school in 1994 and were deployed to Hurricane Opal in 1995 and the DeBruce Grain Elevator explosion in 1998.

In 2005 we have lost K9 Max and K9 Chip, both previously retired from the task force.

Hershel McAlister and K9 Max, a chocolate lab, joined NETF1 in 1995. Max attended CSS school and certified Type 2 in 1996 and Type 1 in 1998. Hershel became a Type 1 and 2 evaluator and an instructor at the CSS school. Hershel and K9 Max were deployed to the DeBruce Grain Elevator explosion in 1998, the Oklahoma City tornadoes in 1999, the World Trade Center in 2001, and the Columbia Shuttle Recovery in 2003.

K9 Chip was Linda Hoffert's home-bred Golden Retriever. K9 Chip certified Type 2 in 1996 and was deployed to DeBruce Grain. Linda attended CSS school in 1994 with her Malinois, Ruger. Linda is one of those behind-the-scenes people that continues to have a large part in NETF1's canine program. When all my Springfield training partners gradually drifted away in the mid-90s, Linda and Chip and Ditto and I kept on training. When Amy decided to get a Golden to replace her German Shepherd, Linda told her of Louie's litter. When Deborah and OneSoc began training, Linda worked with them on building drive, as well as obedience, directability and agility. When Kyle showed up with his chocolate pup Reggie, I sent them to Linda. Needless to say, we in Springfield still consider her a member of the team.



Amy Rising's K9 Louie



Linda Hoffert's K9, Chip



Hershel McAlister and K9 Max

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Some of our certified dogs are still enjoying retirement. We first met Deborah Goodman and OneSoc in 1999. She came out to our Springfield rubble pile one day when Cathy Schiltz, Monica and I were training and has been around ever since. Oney certified Type 2 in April 2001 and five months later was at the World Trade Center. Deborah and K9 OneSoc also were deployed to the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002.

K9 Ditto and I attended CSS school in 1993, and we passed Type 2 certification in 1994 and Type 1 in 1995. We have been deployed to the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and Hurricane Opal in 1995, the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, to Germany and the Republic of Macedonia with the U.S. Army in 1997, DeBruce Grain Elevator in 1998, Oklahoma City tornadoes in 1999, the World Trade Center in 2001, Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002, and the Columbia Shuttle Recovery in 2003.

Captain Eric Jones and K9 Ren. Before EJ got Ren, he spent hours in holes in Lincoln and Columbia and six feet underground in the DeBruce Grain Elevator learning canine search. He and Ren attended CSS school in 1999 and certified Type 2 in Colorado in 2000. I'll always regret that EJ and Ren never deployed as a canine team. But what a blessing he's been as a Search Team Manager and Canine Coordinator.

Time changes everything. 9/11 changed us all. We have new challenges, new teammates and a more complicated mission. Some of life's greatest friendships have been formed on this task force. Some of the best US&R dogs in the country have been a part of our team. We must plan and train for the future but never forget our past.



Elaine Sawtell and K9 Ditto

A Dog's Soul

Every dog must have a soul
Somewhere deep inside
Where all his hurts and grievances
Are buried with his pride
Where he decides the good and
bad
The wrong way from the right,
And where his judgment carefully
Is hidden from our sight.

A dog must have a secret place
Where every thought abides,
A sort of close acquaintance that
He trusts in and confides.
And when accused unjustly for
Himself, He cannot speak,
Rebuked, He finds within his soul
The comfort he must seek.

He'll love, tho he is unloved,
And he'll serve tho badly used,
And one kind word will wipe
away
The times when he's abused.
Altho' his heart may break in two
His love will still be whole,
Because God gave to every dog
An understanding Soul!
~Anonymous

Recent NETF1 Canine Certifications

Congratulations to the following canine teams who have recently passed FEMA certifications:

Mike Agnew/Kenya (Black Lab) - Upgrade Certification to Type I, Denver CO, April 2005

Andrew Pitcher/Andy (Golden Retriever) – Re-Certification to Type II, Denver CO, April 2005

Deborah Goodman/Kiera (Black Lab) – Initial Certification Type II, Virginia Beach VA, May 2005

NETF1 Canine Training Seminar

On May 13-15, NETF1 hosted the 2005 Canine Seminar with guest instructor John Dean from AZ-TF1 at the NETF1 Logistics Center and LFR Training Center. Approximately 15 current and prospective handlers participated in classroom and hands-on activities to promote motivation, agility, and drive in their search canines and to enhance training concepts used by handlers. Seminar participants were introduced to the use of GPS and mapping procedures and participated in competitive activities to locate hidden treasures. Search teams who successfully used their GPS to navigate to secret locations were rewarded with various prizes as a result of a successful “find”.



Miscellaneous Pictures



Kyle Tjelmeland's
Police K9 Kilo



Linda Hoffert with Ditto on
Ditto's 14th Birthday



Amity Bruns K9 Cato
meets Andrew Pitchers
Son Nolan

How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

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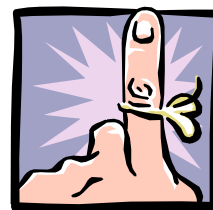
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